

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An audible alarm system for vehicles having an extensible structure, the system comprising:

5 a sensor for sensing a first position and a second position of a vehicle's gearshift lever, wherein the sensor is affixed to an exterior of the vehicle's dashboard; and

a control module, the control module receiving an electrical signal from an extensible structure when the extensible structure is fully or partially  
10 deployed and, wherein the control module communicates the electrical signal to an audible alarm if the sensor senses that the vehicle's gearshift lever has been moved from the first position to the second position.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the sensor is  
15 affixed to the vehicle's gearshift lever.

3. The system of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is a microswitch.

4. The system of Claim 3, wherein the microswitch is a normally closed  
20 single pole single throw microswitch.

5. The system of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is an infrared LED and an infrared receptor affixed to an exterior of the vehicle's dashboard.

25 6. The system of Claim 1, wherein the sensor is a magnetic device.

7. The system of Claim 6, wherein the magnetic device comprises a magnetic sensing switch and a magnet.

30 8. The system of Claim 1, wherein the control module comprises an enclosure, a circuit board, and a plurality of electrical connections.

9. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a remotely controlled switching device.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the switching device is an  
5 electromechanical device.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein the switching device is a semi-conductor circuit which uses the existence of a control voltage to enable a passage of electricity from the device's input terminal through it to its output terminal.  
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12. The system of Claim 9, wherein the switching device is an optical switch device.

13. The system of Claim 9, wherein the switching device is a magnetic  
15 circuit.

14. The system of Claim 1, wherein the alarm is a piezo alarm siren.

15. The system of Claim 1, further comprising a flashing light.  
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16. An audible alarm system for vehicles having an extensible structure, the system comprising:

a sensor for sensing a first position and a second position of a vehicle's gearshift lever, wherein the sensor comprises a magnetic sensing switch  
25 affixed to a vehicle's dashboard and a magnet affixed to the vehicle's gearshift lever; and

a control module, the control module receiving an electrical signal from an extensible structure when the extensible structure is fully or partially deployed and, wherein the control module communicates the electrical signal to an  
30 audible alarm if the sensor senses that the vehicle's gearshift lever has been moved from the first position to the second position.

17. A method of warning an operator of a vehicle having an extensible structure when the vehicle is about to be driven with the extensible structure deployed, the method comprising the step of:

5       sensing a first position and a second position of a vehicle's gearshift lever;

      and

      receiving an electrical signal from an extensible structure when the structure is fully or partially deployed; and

      communicating the electrical signal to an audible alarm if the sensor senses that the vehicle's gearshift lever has been moved from the first position to the

10       second position.